



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Results of a recent survey are contained in this release. You can also find it on our site at www.nass.usda.gov/pa/ and click on the Pennsylvania Publications link.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prospective Plantings

HARRISBURG, PA, Mar 31, 2008 - - **Pennsylvania** farmers intend to plant more acres of wheat, barley, oats, corn, sorghum, and soybeans this spring and harvest more acres of southern Maryland-type tobacco and dry hay this year than a year ago. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco acres are unchanged from last year. Harvesting intentions of light air-cured burley tobacco are down from last year, according to the Pennsylvania field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Winter wheat planted, at 200,000 acres, is up 30,000 acres or 18 percent from last year's planted acres and up 25 percent from the 160,000 acres planted in 2006. **Barley** planting intentions are estimated at 65,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the 55,000 acres planted each of the last two years. **Oat** planting intended acreage is 135,000, up 20,000 acres or 17 percent from last year, and unchanged from 2006.

Intended plantings of **corn** for all purposes are 1,430,000 acres, up 20,000 acres or 1 percent from last year and 80,000 acres above two years ago. Farmers also intend to plant 17,000 acres of **sorghum** in 2008, which is up 2,000 acres or 13 percent from last year, and 4,000 acres above 2006. **Soybean** acreage planting intentions are 445,000 acres, 20,000 acres or 5 percent above the 425,000 acres planted last year and 3 percent above 2006. If realized, this will be the highest soybean planted acreage on record for Pennsylvania.

Intentions are to harvest 2,000 acres of Southern Maryland-type **tobacco**, 900 acres more than the 1,100 acres harvested each of the last two years. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco harvested acreage is expected to be 1,800 acres, unchanged from last year, and 500 acres or 38 percent more than two years ago. Pennsylvania farmers also intend to plant 4,800 acres of light air-cured burley tobacco this year, which is down 200 acres from last year and 700 acres below two years ago.

Harvest intentions for **all dry hay** in 2008 are estimated at 1,850,000 acres, up 50,000 acres from last year's harvest and 100,000 acres more than in 2006.

Corn growers in the **United States** intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the highest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most states as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production.

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Soybean producers intend to plant 74.8 million acres in 2008, up 18 percent from last year, but 1 percent below the record high acreage in 2006. Acreage increases are expected in all states, except in West Virginia, which is unchanged from last year. The largest increases are expected in Iowa and Nebraska, up 1.25 million acres and 1.20 million acres from 2007, respectively. Increases of at least 800,000 acres are also expected in Indiana, Minnesota, and South Dakota. If realized, the planted acreage in Kansas, New York, and Pennsylvania will be the largest on record

All wheat planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter wheat; 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter wheat, and 3.63 million acres White Winter wheat.

The 2008 intended sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is estimated at 7.42 million acres, down 4 percent from 2007. Barley producers intend to plant 4.15 million acres in 2008, up 3 percent from last year. Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2008 crop year are expected to total 3.42 million, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record.

All tobacco growers intend to harvest 350,920 acres in 2008, down 1 percent from 2007, but 4 percent above 2006.

Acreage to be harvested for dry hay is expected to be 60.6 million in 2008, down 2 percent from 2007.

Data users are reminded that actual acreages planted may vary from intentions because of changes in grower plans, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in market conditions prior to planting. Data users are also reminded that this report includes intentions to plant for all purposes.

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